

2000-2001, HLL, were assigned the task of procurement of Laproscopes at a cost not exceeding Rs. 8 crores.

(e) Does not arise.

**Mixing of spurious substance with tea in A.P.**

3962. DR. A.K. PATEL:

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 50,000 Kg. of mixing material for making spurious tea has been seized in Andhra Pradesh, recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a toxic tea like substance that causes health hazards is being mixed with tea throughout the country; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb this dangerous activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Information has been received about seizure of 54,000 Kgs. of spurious tea packed in 770 Gunny bags from 4 Rice Mills in West Godavari Distt. Andhra Pradesh. The samples of the seized stocks were found to contain cashew husk and foreign matter.

(b) No such report has been received from other State Governments.

(c) All the State/UT Governments have been advised to keep a strict vigil on the quality of tea being sold in the country and to take action as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.